

SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

It is believed that no fee is required with this submission. However, should a fee be required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 50-1868.

Remarks

Claims 1-3 and 10-16 are pending. In the interview on October 21, 2002, the Examiner stated that it was not very clear as to which of the amino acid sequences for the human 60 kD Ro/SSA gene product, as disclosed in Ben-Chetrit *et al.* (*Jour. of Clin. Invest.*, Vol. 83, No. 4, pp.1284-1292; 1989) and Deutscher *et al.* (*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, Vol. 85, pp. 9479-9483; 1988), serve as the basis for the claimed sequences in the present application. This confusion relates to U.S. Patent No. 5,637,454, wherein the predicted amino acid sequence for the Ro/SSA in Deutscher is stated as being different from the predicted sequence of Ben-Chetrit (for example, see column 9, lines 9-19). The Applicant respectfully draws the Examiner's attention to Figure 5 of Deutscher *et al.*, Figure 4 of Ben-Chetrit *et al.*, and the enclosed NCBI listing. The Deutscher Ro/SSA sequence and the NCBI listing are identical. The Ben-Chetrit sequence differs from Deutscher and NCBI in the N-terminus, wherein the final twelve amino acids of Ben-Chetrit do not correspond to the N-terminus of Deutscher or the NCBI listing. The present application relies upon the Deutscher and NCBI references for proper disclosure of the Ro/SSA protein from which the presently claimed peptides are derived. This is not inconsistent with the statements made in U.S. Patent No. 5,637,454 (see Example 1; and column 9, lines 9-19). No new matter has been added to the present application.

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Allowance of claims 1-3 and 10-16 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



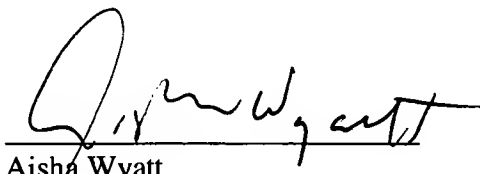
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Date: October ~~22~~²⁵, 2002

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I hereby certify that this paper, along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.



Aisha Wyatt

Date: October ~~22~~²⁵, 2002